



Teasel, common *Dipsacus*  
*fullonum* (*D. sylvestris*)  
Teasel, cut-leaved *Dipsacus*  
*laciniatus*

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Teasel, common *Dipsacus fullonum* (*D. sylvestris*)

Teasel, cut-leaved *Dipsacus laciniatus*

Teasels are herbaceous, monocarpic perennials. They grow as a basal rosette for at least one year; then form a prickly flower stalk, 2-6' tall, typically in the second or third year.

**Leaves:** Opposite; large (up to 1.5' long); oblong; and prickly. Leaves of flowering plants join into a cup around the stem. Common teasel leaves are not lobed; cut-leaved teasel has broader leaves with deep, feathering lobes.

**Flowers:** Hundreds of small flowers, clustered in dense, egg-shaped heads; stiff, spiny, bracts curve up from base of flower head. Common teasel has purple flowers and bracts longer than the flower heads. Cut-leaved teasel has white flowers and bracts shorter than the flower heads. Common teasel blooms June-October; cut-leaved teasel blooms July-September.

**Fruits & seeds:** Small fruits produce 1 hairy, gray-brown seed each.

**Roots:** Deep taproot; up to 2' long and 1" in diameter.

**Ecological threats:**

- Both teasels invade oak savannas, prairies, fields, sedge meadows, and roadsides.
- Rapid range expansion of cut-leaved teasel has been observed in several Midwestern states, especially along roadsides.
- They have been used as both cut and dried flowers.



**Control:**

- Manual/Mechanical: Best time to mow is when the blooms are just beginning to show, but before any seed have matured. This crucial window for mowing teasel can be as long as three weeks, typically in early- to late-July.

**Never mow Teasel with fully mature seed and continue mowing to un-infested areas without cleaning the mower!** Doing that will literally plant this aggressive invasive plant down the roadway and increase the problem, it would also violate NR-40, the Invasive Species Rule, because that would clearly not be following Best Management Practices for teasel, which are required by the law.

- Chemical: Foliar spray with triclopyr, clopyralid, aminopyralid, or metsulfuron-methyl before plant has bolted. Foliar spray rosettes in fall with glyphosate.





Phragmites *Phragmites australis*

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# Phragmites *Phragmites australis*

Phragmites, also known as common reed, is a perennial wetland grass that grows 3-20' tall with dull, rigid, hollow stems. It creates dense clones. Canes persist throughout winter. The native type is not restricted.

**Leaves:** Smooth; narrow; 6-24" long and 0.4-2.4" wide; gray-green in color. Leaf bases form overlapping smooth sheaths around the stems.

**Flowers:** Large feathery panicles; 5-16" long; purple-brown turning golden brown with age. Blooms July-September.

**Fruits & seeds:** Produces thousands of seeds annually, but viability is typically low.

**Roots:** Dense network of roots and rhizomes, up to 6' deep. Rhizomes can grow over 10' per year spreading above and below ground.

**Similar species:** The native subspecies of phragmites (*Phragmites australis* ssp. *americanus*) has smooth reddish brown canes with shiny black spots; canes are flexible. The inflorescence is less dense, as are the stands. Both the leaves and leaf sheaths are loose and usually drop at the end of the growing season. On the introduced phragmites, the leaf sheaths typically adhere tightly to dead stems.

## Ecological threats:

- Phragmites invades moist habitats including lake shores, river banks, and roadways.
- Once it invades a site, it can quickly form monospecific stands, excluding native plants, changing hydrology, altering wildlife habitat, and increasing fire potential.
- It is difficult to control as rhizomes and adventitious buds continue to spread.



## Control:

- Manual/Mechanical: Mow (where possible) 3-5 times during the growing season to decrease stand density. Mow or burn after a chemical application for additional control and maintenance (i.e. apply chemical in late summer and burn in late fall).
- Chemical: Foliar spray or bundle, cut, and treat with imazapyr from June-September.



Knotweed, giant *Polygonum sachalinense* (*Fallopia sachalinensis*)

Knotweed, Japanese *Polygonum cuspidatum* (*Fallopia japonica*)





## Knotweed, giant *Polygonum sachalinense* (*Fallopia sachalinensis*)

## Knotweed, Japanese *Polygonum cuspidatum* (*Fallopia japonica*)

Giant knotweed and Japanese knotweed are herbaceous perennials that can reach 9' and form large vegetative colonies. Semi-woody stems are erect and hollow with distinct raised nodes (resembling bamboo canes). They are similar in appearance and are known to hybridize.

**Leaves:** Alternate; simple; narrowing to a pointed tip; dark green. Japanese knotweed leaves are 4-6" long and have a squared-off base. Giant knotweed leaves are 6-14" long and have a heart-shaped base.

**Flowers:** Upright racemes of numerous small, greenish white flowers. Giant knotweed blooms have both male and female parts in the same flower while Japanese knotweed bears only male or female flowers on a given plant. Blooms in late summer.

**Fruits & seeds:** Three-angled fruits are small (0.2"), shiny, black, and dry. Fruits are enclosed in a winged calyx that makes them buoyant. Seed viability is variable.

**Roots:** Robust rhizomes grow up to 6' deep and create a dense impenetrable mat.

### Ecological threats:

- Japanese knotweed invades forest edges, wetlands, fields, roadsides, and urban areas. It poses a significant threat to riparian areas where it eliminates other vegetation and causes erosion.
- Young stems of Japanese knotweed can produce new roots and shoots if buried or floating in water.
- Japanese knotweed is able to break through pavement and building foundations.
- Both knotweeds have been planted as ornamentals.

### Control:

- Manual/Mechanical: Hand pull young plants; burn or bag and landfill. Mow or cut multiple times per growing season for several years.
- Chemical: Plants are more susceptible to herbicides if they are cut when 4-5' tall and the regrowth treated around 3' tall. Foliar spray with aminopyralid, imazapyr, glyphosate, or triclopyr. Cut-stump treat with glyphosate or triclopyr.



*P. sachalinense*



*P. cuspidatum*



Wild parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*

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## Wild parsnip *Pastinaca sativa*

Wild parsnip is an herbaceous, monocarpic perennial. It grows as a rosette with upright leaves, for at least 1 year. Flowering stems are stout, hollow, grooved, and up to 5' tall. The garden vegetable form is not restricted.

**Leaves:** Rosette leaves are pinnately compound with 5-15 broad, ovate to oblong leaflets. Stem leaves are alternate, with 2-5 pairs of sharply toothed leaflets. Leaf stalks wrap around the stem. Upper stem leaves are reduced to narrow bracts.

**Flowers:** Numerous; small; 5-petaled; yellow; in 2-6" wide, flat umbels. Blooms late spring to early summer.

**Fruits & seeds:** Yellowish; oval; 0.25" long; smooth on one side with four curved "ribs" on the other (see photo).

**Roots:** Long, thick taproot.

**Similar species:** Wisconsin threatened species prairie parsley (*Polytaenia nuttallii*; native) has sparser umbels that are somewhat rounded; leaves have few teeth. Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*; native) has more condensed umbels and 3-7 leaflets.

**CAUTION:** When sap contacts skin in the presence of sunlight, it can cause severe rashes, blisters, and discoloration of the skin (phytophotodermatitis). Wear gloves, long sleeves, and long pants when handling.

### Ecological threats:

- Wild parsnip invades oak savannas, prairies, fields, pastures, and roadsides.
- It has a broad habitat tolerance, growing in dry, mesic, or wet habitats, but it does not grow in dense shade.



### Control:

- Manual/Mechanical: Best time to mow is when the blooms are showing yellow, but before any seed have matured. This crucial window for mowing parsnip can be as long as three weeks, typically in late-June to mid-July.

**Never mow Wild Parsnip with fully mature seed and continue mowing to un-infested areas without cleaning the mower!**

Doing that will literally plant this dangerous invasive plant down the roadway and endanger the public; it would also violate NR-40, the Invasive Species Rule, because that would clearly not be following Best Management Practices, which are required by the law.

- Chemical: Foliar spray with metsulfuron-methyl (mid-May to mid-June), glyphosate, or 2,4-D.